

COUNTRY Russian Occupied Europe DATE DISTR. 13 August 1951
SUBJECT Soviet Order of Battle: Ground and Air Summary NO. OF PAGES 2
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General Statement:

1. No change has been observed in the organization and number of divisions of the Soviet Occupation Forces in Europe up to the summer of 1951. After the exchange of personnel in June and early July, the actual strength of Soviet Army combat units increased by about 12 percent. The last of the 1927 class has been repatriated for demobilization under the exchange program.
2. The efficiency of the Soviet Airforce has been increased by the assignment of jet fighters and jet bombers to air units and by the establishment of a dense network of modern airfields and a system of radar sets covering the Soviet Zone. Air training encompasses activity ranging from individual flights up to formation flying, bad weather flying, and night flying.
3. The majority of Soviet Army combat units are training at company and battalion level in summer camps. Certain branch-of-service units were being rotated to special training sites. Four river-crossing exercises, involving units of various armies with heavy bridge-building equipment, have been held between Dessau and Mittenberge on the Elbe River since May 1951.
4. No extraordinary concentration of troops or stockpiling of supplies has been observed.
5. Apart from an increase in personnel strength, re-equipment of air units with jet aircraft, improvement of motor vehicle equipment, and the heavier occupation of the Letzling Heath area in the course of the last year, the present overall situation corresponds to that of the summer of 1950. The Soviet Occupation Forces in Germany are still ready for combat employment on short notice.

Soviet Ground Forces in Germany:

6. After the exchange of personnel in June and early July 1951, the strength of the 22 combat divisions, two artillery divisions, nine AA divisions, GIG troops, and rear services of the COFG increased from about 290,000 to 325,000. The present disposition of major units together with the latest dates of confirmation is as follows:

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- a. 8th Guards Army: 20th Guards Mechanized and 39th Guards Motorized Rifle Divisions at Ohrdruf; 21st Guards Mechanized and 57th Guards Motorized Rifle Divisions at Kindel (all 14 July).
 - b. 3rd Shock Army: 94th Guards Motorized Rifle Division at military posts (22 July); 18th Mechanized Division at Wittstock (23 July); elements of the 207th Motorized Rifle and 19th Guards Mechanized Divisions at military posts and elements at Letzling Heath (29 July).
 - c. First Guards Mechanized Army: 8th Guards Mechanized, 9th Tank, and 11th Guards Tank Divisions at Koenigsbrueck (June).
 - d. 2nd Guards Mechanized Army: 1st Mechanized, 9th and 12th Guards Tank Divisions mainly in garrisons; elements at special exercises on the Elbe River and in the Jueterbog area (mid-July).
 - e. 3rd Guards Mechanized Army: 14th Guards Mechanized Division at Jueterbog; 9th Mechanized Division at Weisswasser (9 July); 6th Guards Tank Division at Jerder-Markendorf (21 July); and 7th Guards Tank Division at Letzling Heath (29 July).
 - f. 4th Guards Mechanized Army: 6th Guards Mechanized and 25th Guards Tank Divisions at Templin (26 July); 7th Guards Mechanized Division at Lieberose (14 July); and 10th Guards Tank Division at Letzling Heath.
 - g. Fourth Artillery Corps: the bulk of the artillery brigades are at Altengrabow (late June).
7. During June and the first half of July, a total of 70,000 recruits arrived in the Soviet Zone aboard 53 trains, while 30,000 to 35,000 discharges left the zone on about 25 trains.
8. The following special exercises have taken place at troop training grounds: engineer exercises of the 8th Guards Army took place in the Aken area up to 27 July; engineer exercises of the 2nd and 4th Guards Mechanized Armies have been held in the area south of Tangermuende since mid-July; parachute exercises of infantry units of the 39th Guards Motorized Rifle Division were held between the Altenburg and Dresden-Klotzsche Airfields in late June and early July. Units at the Rastrow AAA Range in mid-July included elements of three AAA divisions of the GOFG and six AAA divisions of the armies.

Soviet Air Forces in Germany:

- 9. The 24th Air Army is organized as follows: two fighter corps, each of three divisions with 700 aircraft including 650 MIG-15's; one bomber corps of two divisions with 250 aircraft, including 120 type-27 jets; one GA corps of two divisions with 350 IL-10's, PE-2's, and TU-2's, and two air transport regiments with 60 LI-2 transports. Air units are at full personnel strength. An estimated 33,000 men are assigned to the 24th Air Army.
- 10. Of the airfields in the Soviet Zone, 20 have runways exceeding 2,000 meters, while five are being provided with new runways which will probably be completed by 1 September 1951. Three of them will be longer than 2,500 meters and thus suited for aircraft heavier than those stationed in the Soviet Zone at present. The airfields for jet fighters and jet bombers are provided with bad weather and night landing facilities.
- 11. Information that the bomber regiments at Cottbus and Finsterwalde, equipped with obsolescent aircraft, have reduced their flying activity and sent some bomber crews on furlough to the USSR indicates that these units may soon be re-equipped with modern aircraft.
- 12. It appears that the Russians intend to decentralize the fuel supply for airfields, which has to date been almost exclusively furnished from the fuel depot at Velten. The airfield fuel installations and large fuel depots contain enough fuel for several days' operations.

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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Shipyards in the DDR

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HD-Sekretariat

Rostock i.M., den 19.2.1951.
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